

**Before you enter the Preserve, read these regulations. Study the map of the Preserve unit provided with this guide. Know the areas where you may trap, and the areas where you may not trap.**

**State of Texas Trapping regulations apply except where the following Big Thicket National Preserve Permit Conditions and Regulations are more restrictive. Violation of Permit Conditions/Regulations may result in the loss of your trapping privileges. (Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations)**

**Seasons and Trapping Area**

- 1. Legal fur-bearing animals, as defined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, may be taken in the Preserve from **December 1, 2016, until January 31, 2017**. The following fur-bearing animals may be trapped: badger, beaver, spotted skunk (civet cat), grey fox, red fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, ring-tailed cat, and striped skunk. There is no separate season for muskrat and nutria within the Preserve. **36CFR 7.85(b); 36CFR 2.2(b)(4)**
- 2. Fur-Bearing Trapping is limited to the trapping area as indicated on the map provided. Preserve boundaries are marked with National Park Service boundary signs and/or with yellow paint on trees. Trapping areas are bounded by a combination of pipelines, flag lines, and Preserve boundaries. Trapping outside of the designated trapping area within a unit is prohibited. **[(36CFR 1.6(g)(2))]**

**Means and Methods**

- 1. Fur-bearing animals may be taken with foothold and conibear-style traps. Snares are prohibited. The maximum number of traps allowed per trapper is 24. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**
- 2. Fur-bearing animals may only be taken during the months of December and January. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**
- 3. No person may use a conibear-style trap with a diagonal opening greater than 10 inches set on land or in water less than 6 inches deep. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**
- 4. It is illegal to shoot at, take, or attempt to take any fur-bearing animal not caught in a trap. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**
- 5. The use and/or possession of dogs, bow and arrows, electronic or hand-held calls, recording or other calling devices, artificial light as an attractant, and falconry is prohibited. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**
- 6. It is illegal to use smoke, explosives, or chemicals of any kind to kill or flush fur-bearing animals in the wild. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**
- 7. It is illegal to shoot at, take, or attempt to take any fur-bearing animal from a public road or highway right-of-way, vehicle, or boat. No traps may be set on old logging trails, pipelines, or abandoned roads. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**
- 8. Traps must be checked at least every 24 hours for captured animals, and captured animals must be removed on discovery. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**

- 9. Legal concealed weapons are permitted to dispatch trapped fur-bearing animals. A .17 or .22 caliber rim-fire rifle is also permitted for this purpose. Larger caliber rifles are not permitted. When carrying or possessing a firearm in the Preserve, you must comply with State of Texas law. **[36CFR 1.6(g)(2)]**

**Trapping Regulations**

- 1. The following items must be in your possession while trapping in the Preserve: a current Big Thicket National Preserve Trapping Permit, a current Texas Trapper's License. If you are also hunting within the Preserve, you must possess a current Texas Hunting License and a current Big Thicket National Preserve Hunting Permit. Upon request by a park ranger or other authorized officer, you must show these items. **[36CFR 1.6(a); 36CFR 7.85(c)]**
- 2. Trappers must place a copy of their trapping permit on the dashboard of their vehicle in plain view. Trappers who also use a boat must leave the boat display copy of their permit in their boat in a waterproof container in plain view. **[36CFR 1.6(g)(2)]**
- 3. Traps must have a waterproof tag with a trapper’s name and telephone number attached. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**
- 4. Trappers may trap in the trapping area as shown on the enclosed unit map; however, trapping is prohibited within 500 feet of any designated trail, roadway, residence, school, business, or any navigable waterway (Neches River, Pine Island Bayou, and/or LNVA Canal). **[36CFR 1.6(g)(2)]**
- 5. Motorized vehicles, including cars, trucks, and jeeps, are prohibited from travel in any area within the Big Thicket National Preserve except upon designated Federal, State, or County roads. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on any trail, pipeline, beach, or any other road-accessible location within the Preserve. Motorized vehicles must comply with State law. All-terrain vehicles and dirt-bike motorcycles (off-road motorcycles) are prohibited within the Preserve. **[36CFR 4.10(a)]**
- 6. Camping is prohibited in trapping areas with the exception of sandbars along the Neches River within the boundary of the Neches River-Jack Gore Baygall Unit. **[(36CFR 2.10(a))]**
- 7. Carry out all trash. **[(36CFR 2.14(a)(1))]**
- 8. Human waste must be buried at least 100 feet from any road, trail, or creek **[(36CFR 2.14(a)(6))]**
- 9. In established trapping areas, portable cooking stoves and heaters are permitted; ground (open) fires are prohibited. **[36CFR 2.13(a)(1)]**
- 10. Except where these regulations are more restrictive, Texas fur-bearing regulations apply within the Preserve. Each fur-bearing animal taken or possessed in violation of these regulations and/or Texas law is a separate offense. No person may possess the pelt of a fur-bearing animal within the Preserve at any time other than open season. **[36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]**
- 11. Hunter Orange or International Orange must be worn and visible at all times while trapping in the Preserve. All trappers are required to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of Hunter Orange or International Orange while in designated trapping areas. This includes headgear and at least 144 square inches on both chest and back. **[36CFR 1.6(g)(2)]**
- 12. Park your vehicle in designated areas or along roads within or adjacent to the trapping area. Do not block gates, roads, or park on private property. **[36CFR 4.13(a)]**

## General Information

**Before leaving** on your trapping trip, please inform a relative or friend of your intended point of entry, route of travel, and time of return. While trapping fur-bearing animals, dress appropriately for changing weather conditions and carry a cell phone, flashlight, compass, first aid kit, maps, and water. Do not cross private land to reach a trapping area.

**For Fur-Bearing Trapping questions**, call the Preserve's Visitor Center at 409.951.6700.

**If you have questions** in reference to State of Texas Regulations, contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at 1.800.792.1112.

**To obtain a fur-bearing trapping permit**, you must reapply each year. **Your "2016-17 fur-bearing trapping survey must be returned by April 3, 2017.** Your fur-bearing trapping information is important in assisting us in tracking fur-bearing animal populations within the Preserve.

**Have a safe and pleasurable** fur-bearing trapping experience in Big Thicket National Preserve. Remember that the Preserve is a public area and that non-trappers utilize the Preserve during fur-bearing trapping season. Practice courtesy and safety at all times. This will provide a pleasurable experience for you, other trappers, and the public.

**IF YOUR PERMIT is lost or stolen**, please contact the Preserve immediately at 409.951.6700.

**\*Note:** "All otters taken in Texas, except nuisance otters, shall be permanently tagged with a department issued Federal Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag valid for the year in which the otter was taken within 90 days of take." Texas Parks and Wildlife Fur-Bearing Animal Regulations; September 2009; Page 2

**Preserve Trapping Season: December 1, 2016, through January 31, 2017**

**Legal Fur-bearing Animals:** badger, beaver, spotted skunk (civet cat), grey fox, red fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, ring-tailed cat, and striped skunk. There is no separate trapping season for muskrat and nutria.

**How does a Preserve differ from a National Park?** By special permit, sustainable use of some resources (e.g. fish, wildlife, oil and gas) is authorized in a Preserve to protect both the cultural legacy of the region and the natural heritage of our nation.

# Big Thicket National Preserve



## 2016-2017 Fur-Bearing Trapping Guide and Regulations